

is both the northern border of the South and the southern border of the North. Here the two extremes meet. The cotton, rice, sugar and indigo of the south meet midway the State, the tobacco, wheat, rye, grass, oats and fruits, which constitute the chief products of the northern States; and so marked is this line, that I am told when scientific men have undertaken to work up and classify the flora of the United States, they have by common consent worked downward to North Carolina for the northern, and upward to North Carolina for the southern flora; and that here they find the great natural families of each region meeting and passing into each other. And the same is true, I am told, in regard to the fauna of the United States, also.

This happy mesne condition—geographical, thermal and political—is worthy the consideration of thinking people. Many interesting deductions may be drawn therefrom. Prominent among these are the beneficial conditions which here surround animal health and life, the great variety of vegetable productions, and the stable and equitable social and political institutions necessarily emanating from a community thus situated. Surely to be placed on the border where two great waves of agriculture meet, and where these products begin to be exchanged, is a great material advantage. And this advantage is increased fourfold when it is remembered that this border land can produce at pleasure the peculiar staples of either section. The proof of this is found not only in the census reports, wherein it is shown that North Carolina comes nearer filling every column in the blanks than any other State, but also in the reports of men of science, who say that the flora presents a greater variety of species than can be found in any other portion of the continent. Professor Kerr, our State geologist, tells me that North Carolina contains over 2,500 species of plants. The fauna is also in the same excess over all other regions of the Union.